

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

9th of August 1932.

Tuesday, the _____

25th of Karkadagam 1107.

The House met at half past Eleven of the clock with the President in the Chair. Messrs. K. G. Nayar, S. S. Koder, A. I. Mani, K. T. Mathew, Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan, P. I. Varugis and Dr. A. R. Menon were absent.

Mr. Holsworth, I. C. S., Administrator, Pudukotta State, was in the President's Gallery.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Statement of the cases of the Chief Court.

166. **Mr. K. Ayyappan.**—Will the Government be pleased to give a tabular statement of the cases of the Chief Court for the last three and a half years with the names of Judges, the contending parties and the decision of each case?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The statement is placed on the Council Table.

Transport of Medicines.

167. **Mr. P. Raman Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) by what agency the medicines, etc., were being despatched from the Reserve Store to the various Institutions and also how they were transported from the Steamers to the Reserve Store, etc., till the present Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer assumed charge;

(b) the total expenditure incurred for one year just previous to the date when the present Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer assumed charge;

(c) the percentage that it works out on the total cost of medicine, etc.

(d) The agencies, i. e., the names of the contractors that have been employed for the same work since the present Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer assumed charge;

(e) the total expenditure on that account for one year and thence up-to-date separately after he assumed charge?

(f) the percentage that it works out with regard to the total cost of such articles;

(g) the reasons for the change of agencies, if any?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—(a) In the years 1104 and 1105 the annual supply of drugs was mostly made direct by Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Web Ltd., London and the packages were addressed to the Department. The supply was transported from steamers to the Reserve Store by the clerk in the Stores with coolies employed in Cochin. In the year 1106 the supply was made by Messrs. Dadha & Co., Madras, directly to the Reserve Store and other stations; and the Department had nothing to do with taking delivery at the port of Cochin as the above said firm made their own arrangements for the transport. In the year 1107 most of the supplies were got down at c. i. f. rates from Messrs. Ferris and Co., Ltd., Bristol, E. Merck Germany, Smith, Stanistrest and Co., Ltd., Calcutta, etc. The packages when they arrived at the port of Cochin were taken charge of by the Store-clerk who made arrangements regarding their landing and clearing at Customs House and also their transport to the Reserve Store and to the several institutions in the Department.

(b) Rs. 190—10—6.

(c) The percentage cannot be worked out as the supplies during the 12 months referred to in (b) were made partly by the Department direct and partly by Messrs. Dadha and Co. During this period 95 indents were executed and 636 packages were despatched from the Reserve Store.

(d) The Store-clerk was managing this work for the first seven months. Subsequently other agencies were tried, viz, Messrs. K. M. Vittala Shenoi, Gopalan Co., and lastly F. D' Costa. The clerk still attends to the transport from steamers to the Reserve Store, etc.

(e) Rs. 421—7—0 from 1st February 1931 and Rs. 108—4—0 from 1st February 1932 to 16th June 1932.

(f) The percentage cannot be worked out as the transport charges relate not only to articles that were purchased during this period, but to drugs, instruments and sundries that had accumulated in the Reserve Store and were forwarded to the various Institutions. During this period 365 indents were executed and 1,358 packages were forwarded to the various Dispensaries and Hospitals. Though the number of packages may seem proportionately less, the size of the cases were bigger as the Department was able to secure bigger boxes.

(g) The Store-clerk has too much work in the store, keeping of accounts, stock-registers, supervision of packing, etc., and to relieve him of this extra work it was entrusted to local agents

who could command labour cheaply and at the same time execute the work with more convenience to the Department.

Canal from the Backwater to the Nadamel Market.

168. Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Government have received petitions from the people of Trippunittura praying for a canal from the backwaters on the western side of Trippunittura to the Nadamel market to facilitate the transport of articles from Cochin, Alleppey, Changanacheri, Alwaye and other places;

(b) whether a deputation led by the then M. L. C. Mr. Thomas Manjuran waited upon the Diwan on 8th Meenam 1106 to make the same request;

(c) what, if any, were the steps taken by the Government regarding the same;

(d) whether the Government is aware that this request had been brought to the notice of the Government as long ago as 1101 M. E. by the then M. L. C. Mr. K. S. Rama Ayyar?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The question was investigated by the P. W. D. and when the cost of opening the canal was found to be prohibitive, Government dropped the question temporarily.

(d) Yes.

Meenakshipuram Police Station Building.

169. Mr. K. G. Nayar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Police Station at Meenakshipuram has a compound wall;

(b) whether the Parayas living adjacent to the Police Station are living in sufficiently sanitary dwellings;

(c) whether the Police Station suffers any inconvenience on account of the bones and other stuff of dead bodies being carried into the Police Station compound on account of its bad fencing;

(d) whether there is sufficient room for the constables of the Station to reside there;

(e) how much amount will be required to provide accommodation for the constables employed there and also for erecting a compound wall;

(f) is that place malarial?